| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0842Responded to: 17 April 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am looking to request information regarding confirmed/ suspected drug related deaths in under 25 year olds in Scotland over the last 5-10 years and the locality of these deaths. Would also be keen to gain information regarding the substances involved in these deaths.**

The information sought in relation to *confirmed* drug related deaths is publicly available:

[Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2022 | National Records of Scotland (nrscotland.gov.uk)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland/2022)

The information is therefore held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

I would refer you to the ‘Data’ and table 7 in particular which displays the data by age group and drug type. Table HB3 also includes a breakdown by NHS board area.

Some information in relation to *suspected* drug related deaths is publicly available:

[Suspected drug deaths in Scotland - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](https://www.gov.scot/collections/suspected-drug-deaths-in-scotland/)

This includes a breakdown by age/ location but not by drug type.

Whilst Police Scotland will hold *some* information in relation to this, it is important to note that as the data is more recent, the results of toxicology etc tests will be outstanding for many cases.

Notwithstanding, the only way of collating the data sought would be to review all relevant sudden death reports and associated records.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.